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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Fifty-ninth session

Summary record of the 1251st meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 23 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ameline

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Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of China

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women *(continued)*

Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/7-8; CEDAW/C/CHN/Q/7-8 and Add.1; HRI/CORE/CHN/2010; CEDAW/C/CHN-HKG/7-8; HRI/CORE/CHN-HKG/2010; CEDAW/C/CHN-MAC/7-8; HRI/CORE/CHN-MAC/2010)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of China took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Song** Xiuyan (China) said that her Government attached great importance to the consideration of reports submitted to the Committee and had made determined and timely efforts to follow up on its concluding observations through the relevant departments and ministries. In 2010, a working group composed of 29 ministries and departments had been established to draft the current periodic reports in consultation with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and civil society.

3. At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, China had officially made gender equality a matter of basic national policy and in 2005 incorporated that policy into the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women. Since the last review in 2006, China had prepared or amended more than 10 laws and regulations concerning the protection of women's rights and interests. For example, the 2007 Law on the Promotion of Employment included a provision that employers could not refuse to recruit women or set more stringent selection criteria on the basis of gender and a bill on domestic violence had been introduced in March 2014. As of 2013, 29 of the country's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had promulgated special local regulations or policies on domestic violence and all 31 had drawn up or revised rules for the implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women.

4. One of the objectives of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women (2011–2020) was to ensure that laws and policies incorporated the principle of gender equality. Several provinces had already established gender equality evaluation mechanisms. In Jiangsu Province, for example, some 20 local laws, regulations and policies, such as the draft regulations on employee maternity insurance, had been formulated or amended. Twenty-one gender research and training centres had been set up and, since 2009, mainstream media outlets had broadcast news reports on women's rights to draw public attention to the issue of women's development and gender equality.

5. In 2009, to offset the impact of the international financial crisis on women's employment, China had introduced a system of interest-free microcredit for women. By June 2014, approximately US$ 32.3 billion in loans had been paid out to some 4 million women, creating jobs for more than 10 million women. Women's participation in policymaking and management, which was one of the priorities of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women, was also being vigorously promoted. In 2013, 23.4 per cent of all deputies in the National People's Congress had been women, an increase of more than 2 per cent over the previous Congress. The proportion of women civil servants was also on the rise.

6. Major efforts were also being made to improve women's health. Thanks to the maternity and infant safety initiative, the national rate of hospital births had risen to 99.2 per cent and maternal mortality had dropped to 23.2 per 100,000 live births. Free cervical and breast cancer screening was being provided to women in rural areas.

7. In terms of education, both the National Outline for Medium- and Long-Term Education Reform and Development and the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women contained clear objectives for women's equal access to education at all levels. In 2011, China had introduced a system of policy support for the development of women science and technology professionals. The number of female winners and beneficiaries of the Chinese youth science and technology award and the youth science fund, respectively, had increased significantly.

8. Particular importance was attached to protecting the rights of ethnic minority women. The Government invested significant sums to support economic, social and educational development in ethnic minority areas. Efforts were also made to promote the participation of women from ethnic minorities in decision-making and management and more than 40 per cent of deputies from ethnic minorities in the National People's Congress were women. Investment in services for older persons was also growing.

9. Priority was given to strengthening the social welfare and service system for older people in rural areas. Medical care had also been improved and all women over the age of 65 were entitled to free physical check-ups, health advice and treatment for chronic illnesses.

10. Special protection measures were also in place for women with disabilities. The subsidy system for persons with disabilities living in poverty and the special care subsidy system for persons with severe disabilities had benefited more than 2 million women. More than 3,000 centres for persons with disabilities had been built since 2009 under the Sunlight Home Project to provide health care, rehabilitation and training services to some 50,000 women with disabilities.

11. Measures were being taken to provide education, medical care, employment and social security services to 236 million migrants and their children. Since 2011, rural migrant workers and their children had been included in the public health service.

12. Steps were being taken to enhance the safety and security of girls. The China National Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking (2013–2020) and other legislation on child abuse and sexual violence against minors had been introduced in 2013 to afford better protection against such offences and bring the perpetrators to justice.

13. The national system of statistics on the status of women and children had been improved in 2012. There were now 500 indicators that comprehensively reflected the status of women's development in China. All 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had established local statistical systems. A range of publications now included data disaggregated by sex.

14. **Ms. Tam** (Hong Kong, China) said that, in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, equal employment opportunities for women and men were protected by the Sex Discrimination Ordinance. Female employees were provided with maternity protection, comprising paid maternity leave and employment protection during pregnancy under the Employment Ordinance. More than 30 per cent of senior management positions in private business were held by women. The Chief Secretary for Administration, the top official in the Hong Kong Government, was a woman. In the civil service, half of the permanent secretaries and one-third of all directorate officers were women, while more than a quarter of judges and judicial officers were women.

15. The Hong Kong Government fully respected the choice of women to take care of their families rather than pursuing a career. However, a considerable number of female homemakers would be willing to work given suitable employment opportunities, and Hong Kong was expected to require an increase in the labour force to drive economic growth. A range of measures was thus being introduced in order to enable women to pursue a career

of their choice such as planning holistically for better community childcare provision, afterschool childcare and services for older people, more family-friendly workplaces, more part-time jobs and better retraining. The Government was sensitive to the need for specific measures to meet the needs of single parents, women newly arrived in Hong Kong and women with disabilities.

16. The Government was committed to protecting the rights of the approximately 329,000 foreign domestic workers, mostly women, currently employed in Hong Kong. Foreign domestic workers enjoyed a range of labour rights and benefits, including statutory holidays, a weekly rest day and maternity protection. Efforts were made to ensure that foreign domestic workers, the local community and the countries of origin were fully aware of those rights, and foreign domestic workers were encouraged to report cases of abuse and violations of rights. They enjoyed the same access to the courts and legal aid as local workers and employers or employment agencies that violated the relevant law were subject to prosecution.

17. The Women's Commission, set up in 2001 to advise the Hong Kong Government on women's issues, had developed a gender-mainstreaming checklist that had been applied to more than 50 policy areas. On the Commission's advice, the Government had introduced a gender benchmark of 30 per cent for appointments to advisory and statutory bodies. As that target had now been exceeded, the Government was considering raising it further.

18. **Ms. Chu** Lam Lam (Macao, China) said that, since 2006, the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region had achieved considerable results in safeguarding women's rights and interests through legislation and policies. For example, women in Macao enjoyed the same rights and opportunities in employment and choice of occupation as men and received more comprehensive protection following the amendment to the Labour Relations Law. Maternity leave for female employees had been extended in 2009. Priority had been given to preventive measures at the institutional and legal level to address all forms of violence against women. All acts of violence, whether they occurred in the family or in other circumstances, were regarded as a criminal offence. In order to strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence, with an emphasis on the protection and support of victims, the Macao Government had drafted the law on the prevention of domestic violence to establish a flexible and highly efficient collaboration mechanism involving various departments and non-governmental institutions. The Macao Government also attached great importance to boosting women's participation in management and decision-making and undertook a variety of activities with the Women's Commission to that end.

Articles 1 to 6

19. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her capacity as an expert, welcomed the progress achieved through the enactment of recent legislation, particularly the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women. However, some inequalities and discrimination persisted, affecting women from a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The fact that legislation was built around a series of overly broad general principles made it difficult for the local authorities and courts to apply them. She wondered whether evaluation mechanisms involving independent experts and quantified objectives had been developed for the action plans concerning women. Noting that it was essential to improve the visibility of the Convention, she asked whether the State party had the political will to strengthen dialogue with women's rights defenders. She wondered whether the new law on violence covered all acts conducted in the private and public spheres.

20. **Ms. Šimonović** asked why the State party had still not introduced a clear definition of discrimination against women in its legislation, particularly in the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women. She would welcome clarification of the State party's

position on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention. She also wished to know the number of cases before the courts that had dealt with specific violations under the Convention and the sanctions imposed. Lastly, what were the reasons for maintaining the reservations and declarations in respect of Hong Kong?

21. **Ms. Hayashi** said that there continued to be a lack of statistics, for example on the incidence of rape, and there appeared to be a lack of transparency with regard to information connected to the rights of women. Noting that the courts could apparently refuse to hear cases if they were deemed politically sensitive, she wondered how the National Human Rights Action Plan addressed such situations. She asked the delegation to comment on an unfortunate incident involving a woman working for a HIV/AIDS organization in China who had planned to travel to Geneva for the current meeting but had had her passport confiscated by the provincial authorities. She wondered how the National Human Rights Action Plan provided for the protection of human rights defenders.

22. **Ms. Pimentel** asked the State party the extent to which it considered the justice mechanisms in China to be gender-sensitive and accessible to all women, including those in rural areas, older women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex groups. Did all of the professional capacity-building programmes currently being conducted reach all actors in the justice system? She would be interested to hear about the geographic distribution of legal aid centres, the nature of grievances brought by women, and how many requests for assistance had been received since 2006. She wished to know whether any State agents had been held accountable for abuse or unlawful detention of women. She asked whether women were represented at all levels of the justice system and how women who filed complaints of rights violations were protected so as to ensure that they did not suffer further victimization and stigmatization.

23. **Ms. Leinarte** asked whether sufficient financial and human resources had been allocated to the National Working Committee on Children and Women and Programme for the Development of Chinese Women (2011–2020), and whether gender focal points had been appointed in all Government ministries. She also requested further information concerning the main objectives of the national coordinating bodies, including the steering group for women's contributions to society, referred to in the English version of the report as the Leading Group for the National Exercises of Women, and their status within the national gender machinery. Had monitoring mechanisms been established to evaluate the impact of such bodies on gender equality? Furthermore, she wished to know whether the inclusion of a large number of non-official members in the Women's Commission had adversely affected its ability to carry out its functions and requested further information on the legal status of the Women's Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Similarly, she asked whether the Consultative Commission for Women's Affairs in the Macao Special Administrative Region had taken steps to incorporate gender equality provisions into national legislation and policy, and requested further information on its political and executive status. Lastly, she asked whether dedicated national human rights institutions would be established in Hong Kong and Macao.

24. **Ms. Song** Xiuyan (China) said the National Working Committee on Children and Women was responsible for preparing, implementing and monitoring the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women. The National Bureau of Statistics collected disaggregated data on each objective under the Programme and published an annual report which summarized the progress made towards gender equality. National and regional teams, comprised of Government officials and independent experts, also carried out unannounced inspections in order to evaluate the implementation of the Programme in both urban and rural areas of the country.

25. **Mr. Chen** Jialin (China) stressed that the Government had taken all necessary measures to eliminate both direct and indirect forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender. The Constitution provided equal political, social and economic rights for women and various laws had been adopted to protect women's interests and guarantee their equal access to education, employment and political life. The Government had also recently drafted new legislation on the protection of the family, which provided enhanced protection for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society such as rural and older women and women with disabilities.

26. **Mr. Sun** Ang (China) said that his Government would continue its consideration of the Optional Protocol and provide further information on its progress towards ratification in its next report to the Committee.

27. **Ms. Gao** Shawei (China) said that new legislation to combat domestic violence had been drafted and submitted to the National People's Congress for consideration. NGOs and civil society organizations had been invited to comment on the text and their suggestions had been taken into account. The bill would focus solely on violence against women within the family; other acts of violence against women would continue to fall under the provisions of the Criminal Code.

28. **Mr. Zheng** Ziwen (China) said that the Government had made legal aid more widely available in 2003 in an effort to provide more effective legal assistance for women. Legal aid offices in urban and rural areas of the country had been set up, a national telephone hotline had been established and legal aid awareness-raising campaigns for all relevant stakeholders had been conducted. Since 2009, steps had also been taken to review the legal guidance provided to women and follow up on cases in which legal assistance was provided with a view to equal access to justice for all groups of women.

29. **Mr. Chen** Jialin (China) said that confidentiality and privacy legislation contained strict provisions regarding data collection. Data could only be made public if it was in the public interest and did not threaten State sovereignty or national security. Regulations regarding Government transparency had been adopted in 2010 in order to strengthen public access to national data and Government ministries that failed to comply with data publication standards could be held legally accountable.

30. **Ms. Xiao** Li (China) said that the Government had published data for each of the indicators under the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women. The National Bureau of Statistics had also established a statistics databank on women's development and had recently begun to collect disaggregated data on the number of women in employment.

31. **Mr. Chen** Jialin (China) stressed that the courts were fully independent and not subject to any form of State interference.

32. **Ms. Wu** Xiaofang (China) said that, as of the end of 2013, the number of women judges, prosecutors and lawyers had increased at all levels of the judicial system.

33. **Mr. Sun** Ang (China) said that he was unaware of reports that a woman NGO representative had been prevented from attending the current meeting and requested further information from the Committee regarding the case.

34. **Ms. Zhang** Li (China) said that the Government had taken a number of measures to promote gender equality and implement gender-mainstreaming policies, including the allocation of additional financial and human resources for the National Working Committee on Children and Women and the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women.

35. **Ms. Wu** Xiaofang (China) said that the Government had organized gender awareness-raising courses for judges and court officials, which included training on the provisions of the Convention.

36. **Ms. Zhang** Li (China) said that the Government collaborated closely with NGOs and civil society organizations on gender and equality issues. The National Working Committee on Children and Women included six NGO representatives and its office had been established on the premises of the All-China Women's Federation, the country's largest civil society women's organization, so as to strengthen cooperation between the two entities.

37. **Ms. Tam** (Hong Kong, China) said that numerous efforts had been made to implement the Convention and clearly prohibit all forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender in Hong Kong. Numerous anti-discrimination ordinances had been adopted in recent years and specific measures had been taken to guarantee women's employment rights, such as the introduction of paid maternity leave and safeguards against unfair dismissal. Gender focal points had been appointed in all Government ministries and Government officials and policymakers received in-depth training on gender mainstreaming.

38. The Women's Commission was the main national body responsible for promoting and mainstreaming gender equality and had been allocated its own budgetary line. It worked alongside other bodies, including the Equal Opportunities Commission, to eliminate discrimination and the sexual harassment of women. The inclusion of 19 non-official members ensured that the Women's Commission could work in an independent manner, while the 3 ex officio members guaranteed that it could enforce its mandate.

39. **Ms. Chu** Lam Lam (Macao, China) said that equality and non-discrimination were general principles of law in Macao that could be directly invoked before the courts. Furthermore, new employment and education legislation had recently been introduced to promote gender equality and increase women's participation in public and political life.

40. There were several bodies which assumed responsibility for implementing and upholding human rights in Macao. A separate Government unit had been established to raise awareness of gender issues and disseminate the Convention among the public and the Consultative Commission for Women's Affairs had been introduced in 2005 with a view to mainstreaming gender throughout all Government departments and policies.

41. **Ms. Hayashi** asked for further clarification on the exact nature of the relationship between the people's political consultative committees and the people's courts.

42. **Ms. Pires** asked whether the special temporary measures in the field of women's education and health care formed part of an overarching policy strategy to address gaps in gender equality and whether steps had been taken to evaluate their effectiveness in accelerating de facto equality between men and women. She also asked whether measures would be taken to uphold gender parity once temporary special measures were no longer taken, particularly for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of women.

43. She wished to know whether the Government intended to introduce gender quotas for elected and appointed political positions in order to achieve a minimum participation rate for women of 30 per cent. She requested clarification concerning the reservation in respect of Hong Kong to article 4 of the Convention and enquired as to whether Macao had taken steps to raise awareness of special temporary measures among Government policymakers.

44. **Ms. Hayashi**, recalling that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities required States parties to adopt measures to guarantee women and girls with disabilities full enjoyment of their fundamental rights, said that the Committee found the continued existence of laws which discriminated against women and girls with disabilities in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao to be regrettable. She asked whether the State party intended to adopt a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability. Noting that the State party still classed homosexuality as a mental disorder and

that lesbian, bisexual and transgender women were often subject to discrimination and even violence, she asked whether the State party intended to remove homosexuality from the list of mental disorders and to launch awareness-raising campaigns to promote greater tolerance of homosexuality in Chinese society. The Committee had received reports that women were frequently subject to physical and sexual abuse in both State-run and extralegal detention facilities known as "black jails". She requested the State party to comment on those reports. While the Committee considered the recent abolition of "re-education through labour" detention facilities to be a positive development, it remained concerned that they would be replaced with other arbitrary detention facilities. She asked whether the State party had provided redress to former inmates of "re-education through labour" facilities and how the State party monitored compliance with the order to abolish those facilities, especially at the local level.

45. **Ms. Šimonović** enquired as to the number of court cases in which the Convention had been invoked directly in Macao and whether the Convention could also be invoked directly in court cases in mainland China and Hong Kong. She asked what measures the State party had taken to combat gender stereotypes, which remained prevalent in all regions of the country. Noting that the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women prohibited domestic violence against women, she wished to know how the State party defined domestic violence and what penalties were prescribed for that offence. She asked for more details of the draft legislation before the People's Congress to prevent domestic violence and how many cases of femicide had been recorded in the State party.

46. **Ms. Jahan** said that the lack of detailed information in the State party's report made it difficult for the Committee to assess the situation of trafficking in women and girls in China and the special administrative regions. She requested additional information on the root causes of human trafficking in the State party and the measures taken by the Government to address them. She also requested statistical data on the victims of human trafficking disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and nationality. She asked whether the national plan of action to combat human trafficking for the period 2013–2020 included a gender perspective; whether there was a mechanism in place to monitor the implementation of the national plan of action; and what role NGOs played in its implementation. While the Government's efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking were commendable, it should focus on providing comprehensive assistance to the victims of human trafficking, including adequate medical care and rehabilitation services. She asked whether there were special shelters for female victims of trafficking and, if so, how many.

47. Noting that the definition of human trafficking contained in the Criminal Code did not cover all forms of the phenomenon, she asked whether the State party envisaged adopting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that was in line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol). She asked whether the central Government had considered withdrawing the declaration that it had made upon ratifying the Palermo Protocol which established that the Protocol did not apply to Hong Kong.

48. The Committee had received reports that female prostitutes could be arbitrarily detained in "custody and education" centres for up to 2 years. She asked whether the Government envisaged abolishing such detention centres. Noting that female prostitutes carrying sexually transmitted diseases could be penalized under Chinese criminal law, she urged the Government to treat and rehabilitate those prostitutes rather than punish them. Lastly, she asked what measures the Government had taken to afford female prostitutes more comprehensive protection.

49. **Mr. Sun** Ang (China) said that "black jails" were run by private individuals and operated outside the country's legal framework. Persons who ran such illegal detention

centres had committed a crime and would be prosecuted and punished. A number of arrests had been made in Beijing in connection with such illegal detention centres.

50. **Ms. Mu** Hong (China) said that the rights of all Chinese citizens were protected by Chinese law, regardless of their sexual orientation. In China, social attitudes towards homosexuality were becoming more progressive. There were social organizations that could provide lesbian, bisexual and transgender women with a range of support services.

51. **Ms. Wang** Ying (China) said that the anti-trafficking unit of the Ministry of Public Security had been set up in 2007 to coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking. A higher number of cases of trafficking in persons were recorded in certain regions of the country on account of the sophisticated and extensive trafficking networks established by traffickers. The number of cases of trafficking involving women and children continued to rise. The public security authorities used the Palermo Protocol to guide their activities to combat human trafficking and to provide the victims with adequate protection. A special databank on human trafficking had also been developed, which had allowed the public security authorities to track down around 2,000 children who had been trafficked a number of years before.

52. The national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons for the period 2013–2020 set out the procedures for investigating cases of human trafficking and for dealing with the victims. There were no separate shelters for female victims of trafficking. In China, the crime of human trafficking was understood to include all forms of the phenomenon.

53. **Ms. Tam** (Hong Kong, China) said that the Hong Kong authorities did not intend to repeal or modify any existing laws which provided for women to be treated more favourably than men, such as the Adoption Ordinance. Given that Hong Kong was a common law jurisdiction, the Convention did not have the force of law and its provisions were not directly enforceable in Hong Kong courts. The relative economic prosperity of Hong Kong and its liberal visa regime made it susceptible to illegal immigration. Given the region's small size and high population density, the Hong Kong authorities would need to consider the consequences of applying the Palermo Protocol, which permitted victims of human trafficking to remain in its territory either on a temporary or permanent basis.

54. **Ms. Chu** Lam Lam (Macao, China) said that the Convention could not be invoked directly in court cases in Macao. The statistical data contained in paragraph 17 of the written replies to the list of questions (CEDAW/C/CHN/Q/7-8/Add.1) showed that the degree of participation of women in public life in Macao was similar to that of men. The Macao authorities saw no real need to adopt temporary special measures.

55. **Ms. Fernandes De Sousa Ferreira** (Macao, China) said that the Macao authorities had adopted comprehensive legislation on human trafficking based on the Palermo Protocol. The legislation focused on preventing human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers and protecting victims. There were three shelters in total: one for men, one for women and one for minors. There were also 24-hour hotlines for reporting cases of human trafficking and providing guidance and assistance to victims. The measures in place to identify victims of trafficking included border checkpoints and performing thorough background checks on persons entering the region from "high-risk" countries. The Macao authorities had also launched campaigns to raise public awareness about the dangers of human trafficking. Persons applying for a visa or work permit were also provided with such information.

56. **Ms. Zhang** Li (China) said that, under the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women, State bodies and institutions were required to appoint and train a certain number of women, including women from national minority groups. Moreover, women accounted for at least 30 per cent of the candidates standing for election to the people's congresses of the autonomous regions of China. Women currently accounted for over 40 per cent of the members of the National People's

Congress. Furthermore, the Government allocated additional budgetary resources to the autonomous regions to guarantee children from national minorities access to education and to generate employment. The primary school enrolment rate was largely the same for boys and girls throughout the country.

57. **Ms. Hayashi** asked whether the State party had conducted investigations into the alleged abuse to which women were subject in "black jails".

58. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** asked whether the reports prepared by civil society organizations had been reviewed by the Government prior to being submitted to the Committee; whether the State party planned to waive the requirement for civil society organizations to be sponsored by a State body before they could be registered; what measures were in place to protect members of civil society organizations and human rights defenders from reprisals; and whether marital rape constituted a crime in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao.

59. **Ms. Šimonović** asked whether the Convention could be invoked directly in court cases in mainland China; what forms of domestic violence were covered by the pending legislation to combat domestic violence before the national legislature; and whether that bill criminalized domestic violence.

60. **Ms. Pires** asked whether there were temporary special measures in place for Tibetan women.

61. **Mr. Sun** Ang (China) said that the Government welcomed the efforts of NGOs and civil society organizations to promote women's rights. Civil society organizations, including the ones present at the current meeting, were not subject to reprisals of any kind for their work.

62. **Ms. Song** Xiuyan (China) said that the bill on domestic violence under consideration by the National People's Congress would contain a definition of the offence and specify penalties for the perpetrators of domestic violence.

63. **Ms. Tam** (Hong Kong, China) said that the Hong Kong authorities had held extensive consultations with NGOs, which had made a valuable contribution to the State party's report. The Hong Kong authorities had adopted legislation prohibiting human trafficking and related acts and prescribing harsh penalties for perpetrators which was in line with the Palermo Protocol.

64. **Ms. Tang** Aihua (China) said that the Hong Kong Crimes Ordinance provided that unlawful sexual intercourse included non-consensual sexual intercourse between a man and his wife. Marital rape therefore constituted a crime under Hong Kong law.

65. **Ms. Chu** Lam Lam (Macao, China) said that marital rape constituted a crime under Macao law if certain conditions were met. Perpetrators of marital rape could incur a prison sentence of between 3 and 5 years.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.